CLAIMS:

1. A method, comprising:

developing an information flow model that models the flow of information through a process of an enterprise, wherein the information flow model defines at least one information component associated with the process;

analyzing the information flow model to determine a potential benefit if the information component were digitized; and

selectively digitizing the information component based on the determined benefit.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing the information flow model comprises:

calculating a metric associated with the information flow model; and

determining the potential benefit based on the calculated metric.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the metric comprises one of quality, cycle time, productivity, cost, and revenue.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein analyzing the information flow model further comprises:

importing the information flow model into a value modeler; and

automatically computing a metric associated with the process with the value modeler.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying a set of processes within the enterprise;

developing at least one cross-functional matrix that specifies a plurality of information components associated with the processes and a usage of the specified information components across a plurality of functions within the enterprise;

selecting one of the processes based on the cross-functional matrix; and

developing the information flow model for the selected process.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein developing at least one cross-functional matrix comprises specifying an estimated number of uses by each of the enterprise functions for each of the information components.

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7.   The method of claim 5, wherein developing the cross-functional matrix comprises developing the cross-functional matrix to list for each of the information components an estimated number of processes within each of the enterprise functions that makes use of that information component.

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8.   The method of claim 1, wherein developing an information flow model comprises graphically illustrating the flow of information through the process.

9.   The method of claim 1, wherein developing an information flow model comprises:
15   defining a set of tasks associated with the process; and
          assigning properties to each of the tasks to represent enterprise costs associated with the tasks.

10.   The method of claim 9, wherein developing an information flow model comprises
20   interrelating the tasks based on dependencies between the tasks.

11.   The method of claim 9, wherein developing an information flow model comprises:
          defining a set of enterprise functions involved in the process; and
          mapping the tasks to the enterprise functions.

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12.   The method of claim 9, wherein assigning properties to each of the tasks comprises presenting a user interface that includes one or more of:

an input region to receive a description of the task;

an input region to receive an elapsed time that specifies the total amount of time that elapses from start to completion of the task;

an input region to receive a loop/branch weight that indicates the percentage of time the task is actually performed;

an input region to receive a total resource time that indicates the total time expended by a resource during the task;

an input region to receive a resource quantity that indicates the total resources allocated to the task;

an input region to receive a type of resource allocated to the task;

an input region to receive a hard cost associated with the resource;

an input region to receive a material cost associated with the task; and

an input region to receive a percentage of material hard cost associated with the task.

13.   The method of claim 9, further comprising:

computing one or more total costs associated with the information flow model based on the assigned properties; and

generating a financial report that presents the computed total costs.

14.   The method of claim 13, wherein computing one or more total costs comprises computing at least one of total hard dollars, total soft dollars, and total dollars for each of a set of enterprise functions associated with the process.

15.   The method of claim 13, wherein computing one or more total costs comprises computing at least one of total hard dollars, total soft dollars, and total dollars expended during the modeled process.

16.   The method of claim 1, wherein the information flow model comprises a first information flow model that models current operation of the process, the method further comprising:

developing a second information flow model to model the flow of information through the process if the information component were digitized;

calculating a metric associated with the first information flow model and a metric associated with the second information flow model; and

comparing the metric associated with the first information flow model to the metric associated with the second information flow model to determine the potential return on investment if the information component were digitized.

17.   The method of claim 16, wherein the metrics comprises a total costs for the respective processes.

18.   The method of claim 16, wherein the metrics provide measurements of one of quality, cycle time, productivity, cost, of revenue.

19.   The method of claim 16, further comprising generating a financial report that lists at least one of total hard dollars, total soft dollars, and total dollars for each of the processes modeled by the first and second information flow models.

20.   The method of claim 16, further comprising generating the financial report to list an expected percent reduction in total costs if the information component were digitized.

21.   The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the digitized information component within a repository with other digitized information components.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

retrieving a subset of the digitized components from the repository in response to a user request for an electronic document;

reassembling the retrieved digitized information components to form the electronic document; and

presenting the electronic document to the user.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing the information flow model comprises determining a return on investment if the information component were digitized.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein presenting the electronic document comprises communicating the electronic document via a network to a client computer associated with the user.

25. The method of claim 1, wherein the information component is created during the process.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein the information component is used but not created during the process.

27. A method, comprising:

identifying a set of processes within an enterprise;

developing at least one cross-functional matrix that lists a set of information components associated with the processes and specifies an estimated use of the information components across functions within the enterprise;

selecting at least one of the processes based on the cross-functional matrix;

developing a first information flow model to model the selected process and the use of the information components associated with the selected process;

developing a second information flow model to model the selected process if one or more of the set of information components associated with the selected process were digitized;

comparing the first information flow model and the second information flow model; and

selectively digitizing the information components associated with the selected process based on the comparison.

28. The method of claim 27,

wherein comparing comprises analyzing the first information flow model and the second information flow model to determine a potential return on investment if the information component were digitized, and

wherein selectively digitizing comprises selectively digitizing the information components based on the determined potential return on investment.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein comparing comprises:

calculating a metric associated with the first information flow model and a metric associated with the second information flow model; and

comparing the metric associated with the first information flow model to the metric associated with the second information flow model to determine the potential return on investment if the information component were digitized.

30. A system comprising a value modeler software module executing on a computing device, wherein the value modeler software module processes an information flow model that models the flow of information through a process of an enterprise, and calculates a metric of improvement for the process if at least one information component associated with the process were digitized.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the metric comprises one of quality, cycle time, productivity, cost, and revenue.

32. The system of claim 30, wherein the value modeler comprises a database that stores data defining the information flow model as a set of tasks associated with the process, wherein the data defines relationships based on dependencies between the tasks.

33.   The system of claim 32, wherein the value modeler presents a user interface for assigning costs to each of the tasks.

34.   The system of claim 30, wherein the data defines a set of enterprise functions involved in the process, and maps the tasks to the enterprise functions.

35.   The system of claim 30, further comprising graphical design software that illustrates the flow of the information through the process.

36.   The system of claim 30, wherein the graphical design software presents a user interface that includes one or more of:

an input region to receive a description of the task;

an input region to receive an elapsed time that specifies the total amount of time that elapses from start to completion of the task;

an input region to receive a loop/branch weight that indicates the percentage of time the task is actually performed;

an input region to receive a total resource time that indicates the total time expended by a resource during the task;

an input region to receive a resource quantity that indicates the total resources allocated to the task;

an input region to receive a type of resource allocated to the task;

an input region to receive a hard cost associated with the resource;

an input region to receive a material cost associated with the task; and

an input region to receive a percentage of material hard cost associated with the task.

37.   The system of claim 30, wherein the value modeler computes one or more total costs associated with the information flow model, and generates a financial report that presents the computed total costs.

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38.   The system of claim 30, wherein the value modeler computes at least one of total hard dollars, total soft dollars, and total dollars for each of a set of enterprise functions associated with the process.

5   39.   The system of claim 30, wherein the value modeler computes at least one of total hard dollars, total soft dollars, and total dollars expended during the modeled process.

40.   The system of claim 30, wherein the information flow model comprises a first information flow model that models current operation of the process, and the value modeler
10   calculates the metric by processing a second information flow model that models the flow of information through the process if the information component were digitized.

41.   The system of claim 30, wherein the value modeler calculates respective metrics associated with the first information flow model and the second information flow model, and
15   compares the metrics to determine a potential benefit if the information component were digitized.

42   The system of claim 41, wherein the value modeler compares the metrics to determine a potential return on investment if the information component were digitized.

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43.   The system of claim 30, further comprising a digitization repository to store the digitized information component with other digitized information components.

44.   The system of claim 43, further comprising a computer to retrieve the digitized
25   information components from digitization repository, and dynamically generate display output from the digitized information components.

45.   The system of claim 43, wherein the digitization repository comprises:
         a file server to store the digitized information components; and
30   a database management system to provide an index for retrieving the digitized component.

46.   The system of claim 45, wherein the database management system comprises one of a relational database management system, a hierarchical database management system, a multidimensional database management system, an object-oriented database management system, and an object-relational database management system.

47.   A computer-readable medium comprising instructions that cause a programmable processor to:

        calculate a metric associated with a first information flow model that models the current flow of information through a process of an enterprise, wherein the information flow model defines at least one information component;

        calculate a metric associated with a second information flow model that models the flow of information through the process if the information component were digitized;

        compare the metric of the first information flow model and the metric of the second information flow model to compute a potential benefit if the information component were digitized; and

        output a report that presents the potential benefit.

48.   The computer-readable medium of claim 47, wherein the metric comprises one of quality, cycle time, productivity, cost, and revenue.

49.   The computer-readable medium of claim 47, wherein the instructions cause the processor to compute at least one of total hard dollars, total soft dollars, and total dollars expended during the modeled processes.

50.   The computer-readable medium of claim 47, wherein the potential benefit comprises a potential return on investment.